

1416-3 Old Lystra Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
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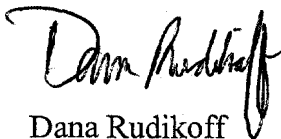
To whom it may concern:

I am writing concerning the issue of labeling and testing genetically engineered foods. As a consumer, I believe I have a right to know whether a food product contains genetically altered ingredients. Regardless of the alleged safety of genetic engineering processes, I should have the right to choose whether I purchase and consume generically engineered foods. The only way to ensure this right is to require the mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods; voluntary labeling does not go far enough. Furthermore, manufacturers who desire to disclose that their products do not contain genetically engineered ingredients should have the right to do so as well.

In addition to mandatory labeling, I believe it is necessary to engage in rigorous and thorough safety testing of genetically engineered foods before they are permitted to be sold to consumers. The precautionary principle dictates that genetically engineered foods should not be assumed to be safe. Human health concerns - such as cancer risk, food allergies, increased antibiotic resistance, decreased food quality and nutrition, increased pesticide residues, and general toxicity - demand that we proceed cautiously with the production and marketing of genetically engineered foods. Environmental concerns - such as increased pesticide residues, genetic "pollution" through cross-pollination, injury to beneficial insects, and the creation of "superweeds" and "superpests" - also justify stringent oversight of this potentially dangerous technology.

I believe that a moratorium should be imposed on the production and distribution of genetically engineered foods until long-term studies can demonstrate that they are safe for human and environmental health. Provided their safety can be demonstrated, I would want genetically engineered products to be labeled so consumers can choose whether to purchase such products.

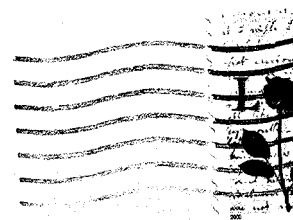
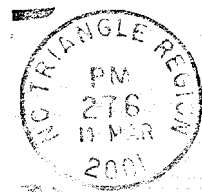
Sincerely,


Dana Rudikoff

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udikoff
ld Lysira Rd. Apt. 3
Hill, NC 27514-7769



FDA Commissioner

Docket No. OON-1396 / OOD-1598

FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food & Drug Administration

5630 Fishers Lane - Room 1061

Rockville MD 20852